

*In the Specification:*

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

**Related Applications**

The present application is also related to a concurrently filed non-provisional application by the applicants of the present application, which related application is entitled *Flexible Automated Connection to Virtual Private Networks*, has been granted Application Number 09/911,061 (pending), and is assigned to the assignee of the present invention, and which related application is hereby incorporated by reference as if set forth in its entirety herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

Illustrative user LAN 101 is shown having an illustrative assortment of user client computers and other facilities 104-107 and 110. Microsoft MICROSOFT PC 104 represents a typical personal computer client running applications under one of the Microsoft Windows MICROSOFT WINDOWS operating system versions, while MAC computer 105 represents an illustrative Apple APPLE computer client running applications under Apple's APPLE's proprietary operating system. Block 106 represents yet another client computer, this one running one of the many variants of the UNIX operating system, e.g., Linux the LINUX operating system, and applications compatible with that environment. Peripherals, such as printer 107 and other clients are also shown connected to LAN 101, as is well known in the art.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

Other functional elements served by memory 475 that operate under the overall direction of controller 440 include GUI server 450 for providing web pages to users at client terminals 401-i having appropriate browser software and

display functions (such as those available in personal computers, handheld computers, or cell-phones capable of running web browsers or mini-browsers). When employing standard personal computer web browsers, such as ~~those available from Netscape or Microsoft~~ NETSCAPE web browsers or MICROSOFT web browsers, client machines merely interact, *e.g.*, entering or selecting data associated with predefined web page fields, as is well known in the art. Examples of such interactions will be presented below.

Please replace the two paragraphs on page 14, beginning at line 5, with the following amended paragraphs:

By way of illustration of the use of cell phone-based mini-browser interaction with GUI server 415, an ~~Eriesson~~ ERICSSON model R280LX cell phone (with add-on data port, including a wireless modem, represented FIG. 3 by wireless mode 311) will illustratively employ one of several micro-browser *cards* to display and receive information useful in specifying and selecting communications access and destination information while connected to the network interface unit of FIG. 4. User text input (and user-defined *soft keys* available as a feature of the illustrative ~~Eriesson~~ ERICSSON cell phone) will likewise be used to direct setup and operation of secure data communications from a data source connected through a cell-phone data port. In other client machines graphical styli, touch-sensitive screens and other user inputs will be used, as appropriate to particular circumstances.

Other control functionality and browser/GUI-server interaction in executing particular user-level applications will be readily implemented using any of a variety of scripts and applets, *e.g.*, coded in the well-known ~~Java~~ JAVA language and running at cell phones (and other wireless clients) in coordination with GUI server 450. A variety of application tools are available, *e.g.*, those from Sun Microsystems in support of JAVA applications generally, and, more particularly, for wireless applications using Sun's ~~Java~~ JAVA 2 Micro Edition (J2ME). Further application development support is available from companies

such as ~~Lutris Technologies~~ LUTRIS TECHNOLOGIES, which offers its ~~Enhydra~~ ENHYDRA XML- and Java JAVA-based server (including ~~Lutris~~' LUTRIS' i-mode microbrowser) and other tools in support of wireless applications. ~~Lutris~~ LUTRIS also offers tools promoting use of J2ME to create applications for ~~Motorola~~ MOTOROLA iDEN and other handsets. See, for example, <http://www.lutris.com> WWW-based materials that were available from LUTRIS at the time of filing this application.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, at line 25, with the following amended paragraph:

IPsec server 460 cooperates with controller 440 to apply desired encryption/decryption and encapsulation/de-encapsulation operations required by user or VPN system controls. Appropriate communications parameter values are provided to IPsec server 460 for communications between particular user clients and particular network (ISP, destination host, and other) elements during configuration setup. Encryption keys and other key exchange material is likewise provided as part of configuration setup. While various implementations of IPsec (IP security) software are available, one software implementation appropriate for the Linux environment is the so-called FreeS/WAN implementation available as a WWW-based download at the time of filing this application for download at <http://www.freeswan.org/intro.html>. While this package advantageously runs under the ~~Linux~~ LINUX operating system illustratively employed by the network interface unit of FIG. 4, other IPsec implementations are available for use in a variety of contexts and environments.